GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:144
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
STRATEGY FOR MAJOR PORTS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to make major ports to run like independent profit making centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have invited suggestions from Industry Chambers and Ports users in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL)

(a) to (e): Efforts are made on a continuous basis to improve the working of major ports and to facilitate them in taking prompt decisions in a commercial environment. Government has decided to corporatise Major Ports in a phased manner. At present, Major Port Trusts are required to prepare Annual Statement of income and expenditure, which merely shows operating surplus and they do not maintain Accounts on commercial lines; nor do they maintain profit and loss accounts. Corporatisation of major ports would make profit and loss statements mandatory and will lead to the establishment of commercial accounting practices, creation of profit centres and drawing up of balance sheets. Major Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Parliament which seeks to amend Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to enable the Government to corporatize Major Ports. The said Bill stands referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism for examination and report. Consultation with the Industries Chamber, Port users, Port operators etc., is a continuous process.Further representatives of port users and Industry Chambers are invariably the members of the Board of Trustees and as such are a part of decision making process of Port Trusts.